

A true

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NARRATIVE

Of the PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

Essex-Affizes,

Holden at Chelmsford, July the 12, &c. 1676.

GIVING

An Account of the Tryal and Condemnation of a Woman for poysoning her own Father.

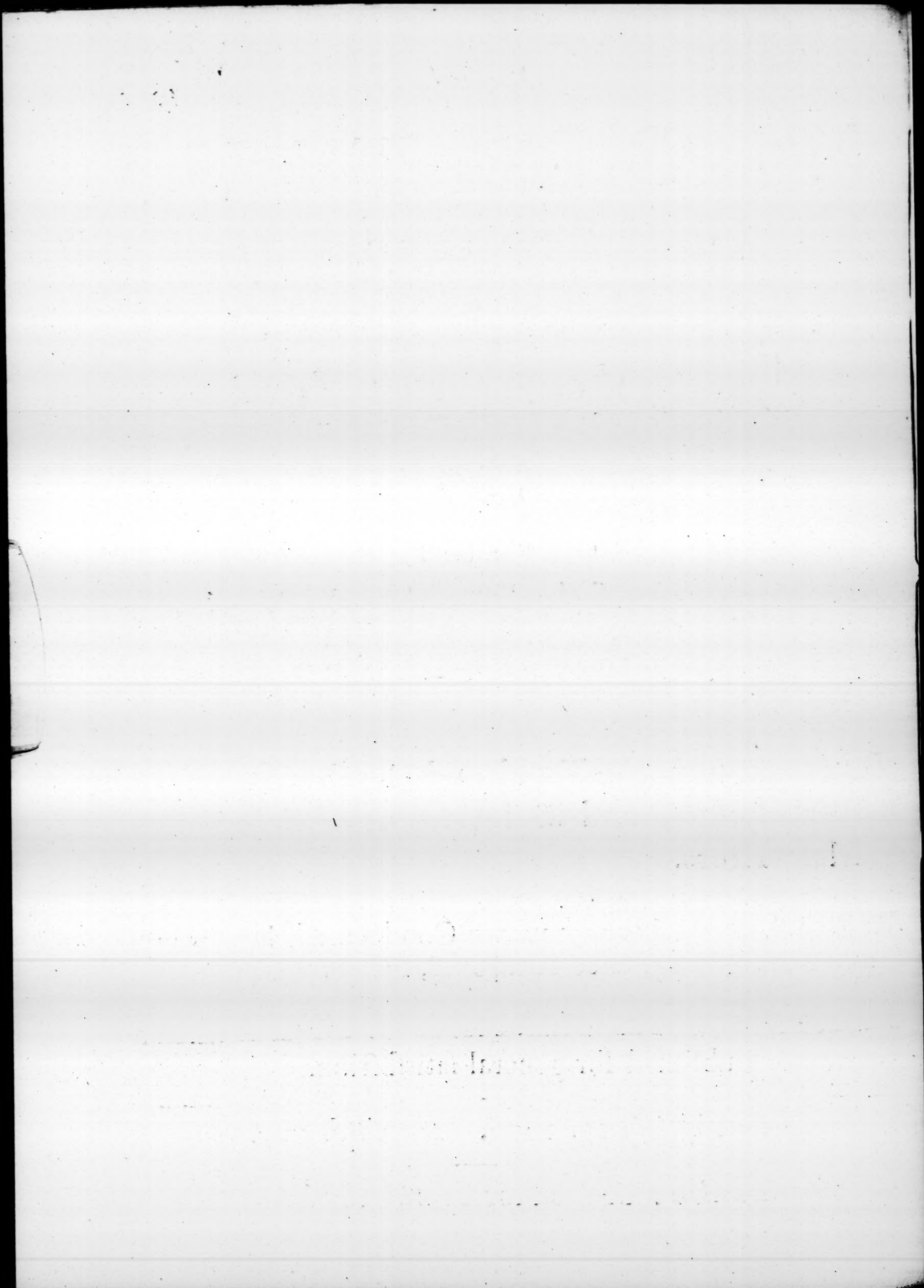
Together with the Tryal and Condemnation of four Pyrats; and of several other Felons and Malefactors.

With an Account how many are Condemned, how many burned in the Hand, to be Transported, and to be whipt.

Published for general satisfaction.

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A
 NARRATIVE
 Of the PROCEEDINGS at
 Effex-Affizes.

AT these Affizes there were in all no fewer than Eight and thirty persons that took their Tryals for Murthers, Burglaries, Felonies, and other Misdemeanors wherewith they stood charged. To recite particularly every one's Crime and Circumstances, were to pester the world with an impertinent and insipid Beadrol of Villany, and nauseate the courteous Reader with the tedious dulness of such a Relation. It will be sufficient to gratifie the curiosity of the Ingeniously inquisitive if we give a faithful account of the most considerable and remarkable Criminals and Passages.

And amongst these we may justly reckon that horrid sin of Parricide, a Crime for which the wisdom of *Solon*, that great Legislator of old, thought not fit to appoint any punishment, out of a charitable presumption that humane nature would never suffer any to be guilty of it. That a Childe should murder its Parent, and plot their death from whom she received her own life, is strange to imagine; and yet to shew how great a power Satan obtains over some persons, so that they stick not to perpetrate the most execrable Crimes, we had here a sad instance of a woman that had poyson'd her own Father: The occasion was thus.

This Maid living at home with her Father (who was a Widower, and she his onely Child) as his House-keeper, a young man of the neighbourhood took such a fancy for her, and made some address by way of courtship and wooing to her, which she accepted very kindly, and having no small inclinations to the business of Marriage: But after he had, with very small solicitations, obtained her good will, he then began to discourse her about Portion, or what she had got towards House-keeping, bragging that though a poor man, yet he had served something in service, and was not willing

ling to match with any one that could not adde a little to it, for the bettering their future Livelihood, &c. To this, or some such-like discourse, she answer'd, that truly for the present, for her part, she had nothing; but all that was her Fathers would certainly come to her after his Death, which (saith she) shall not be long first; adding, that she would get some body to knock him in the head. Her Sweet heart thought verily she had spoke these last words but in Jest, or to hear what he would say, and therefore took not such present notice of them, as they might deserve, yet could not forbear reproving of her at the same time, saying, *God forbid! That I should be the occasion of such an horrid act, or that either of us should be guilty of it so much as in thought for a little worldly wealth:* and so they parted for that time. But the Devil having once injected this unnatural design in her thoughts, would not let her rest without putting it in execution; she concluded she should not get an Husband, if she did not make away her Father, and get her self possesst of his Estate; and therefore rather than lose her Sweet-heart, resolves to lose her Soul. For it happen'd about two or three days days afterwards she met a Rat-catcher on the Road about a mile from their dwelling, which the Devil presently inspired her was

an excellent opportunity towards effecting her hellish purpose; whereupon going up to him, she desired to buy two pennyworth of *Ratibane*: He asked her what she would do with it? to which she shortly and angrily replied, *What do you think should be done with it? they who are to use it know what to do with it as well as you, and how to order it.* So that after many words, the man not imagining she had any ill intention, sold her a quantity of it, which the next day she gave her Father in a mess of broth: Soon after he had taken it he fell extremely ill, complaining that his bowels burnt within him; several Neighbours came to visit, and a Nurse was entertained to tend him, they concluding from his condition, that he had taken some venomous thing, but believed it to be by ill accident, not imagining any body had wilfully given it him. Several things they gave him, as Oil in great quantity, Cordials to keep it from his heart, &c. and there was once some hopes of his recovery, upon which this wicked Wench was heard by the Nurse to say, in a muttering way, as to her self, *If this will not do, something else shall:* but in truth she needed no more, for at two days end the poor man died in miserable Torture.

After whose Death, the Nurse giving some hints amongst the Neighbours of what she had
heard

heard the Daughter say, it soon came to her Sweet-hearts ear, who presently declared, that he verily believed she had poison'd her Father, relating the words she had formerly spoken to him; whereupon she was apprehended, and sent to the Goal. At the Bar she pleaded *Not Guilty*; But the Rat catcher testifying his selling of her the Poison (for which he begged pardon of the Court, as done without the least intention or suspicion of harm) and other sufficient Evidence coming in against her, she was found guilty by the Jury, and afterwards deservedly condemned to Dye.

There were seven Malefactors carried down from the *Marshalses*, to take their Trials there. They have been much talk'd of, and called by the name of Pirats; but it seems they were only Land-lopers, that did not so much practice their Rogueries *Super altum Mare*, as in several Creeks and places on the Shore. But that which they were indicted for here, was for several Felonies and Burglaries committed in *Candle Island* in this County of *Essex*, having taken from the Inhabitants to the value of 25 *l.* Four of them upon clear and undeniable proof were found Guilty and Condemned; the other for want of sufficient Evidence were acquitted.

A Woman was tryed for breaking open a House (but in the day time) and taking away several parcels of Linnen and other Goods, for which she stands Convicted.

There were in all Eight burnt in the Hand for several Felonies; Seaven pleaded for Transportation; the Five before-mentioned condemned to Die; and one ordered to be Whipt for petty Larceny: but it seems he was resolved to save them that labour; For as he was to be conveyed from the Bench back to the Goal, by I know not what lucky activity of his Heels, he cleverly made his Escape.

F I N I S.